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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: OPRC, SO  
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

THE FOLLOWING PRESS GUIDANCE WAS PREPARED IN RESPONSE  
TO TELEPHONE QUERIES FROM DAVID OTTAWAY OF THE  
WASHINGTON POST; IT WAS NOT USED AT THE SEPTEMBER 9  
NOON BRIEFING:

SOMALIA ~~CONGRESSIONAL HOLD AND U.S. ASSISTANCE~~

~~Q. HAS CONGRESS PLACED A "HOLD" ON US AID TO SOMALIA?~~

A. THE HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED  
THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HOLD THE \$21 MILLION IN  
UNOBLIGATED FY88 ESF AND \$15 MILLION IN UNDISBURSED  
FY87 ESF FOR SOMALIA UNTIL THERE ARE ASSURANCES THE  
SOMALI GOVERNMENT IS TAKING STEPS TOWARD INTERNAL  
RECONCILIATION THAT PROVIDE HOPE FOR A POLITICAL  
SETTLEMENT TO THE CONFLICT. WE SHARE THE CONGRESS'  
CONCERN. THE ADMINISTRATION IS ACTIVELY PURSUING  
HUMAN-RIGHTS IMPROVEMENTS WITH THE SOMALI  
GOVERNMENT. SOME PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN  
ADDRESSING KEY CONCERNS. MEANWHILE, WE ARE ALSO

DISCUSSING WITH CONGRESS APPROPRIATE TIMING FOR  
OBLIGATING 1988 ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUNDS.

Q. WOULD YOU PLEASE COMMENT ON THE ALLEGATIONS OF  
HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN SOMALIA?

A. HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE FORM OF VICTIMIZATION  
OF CIVILIANS AND REPRISALS HAVE OCCURRED ON BOTH  
SIDES SINCE LATE MAY OF THIS YEAR WHEN THE SOMALI  
NATIONAL MOVEMENT ATTACKED TOWNS IN THE NORTHERN PART  
OF SOMALIA. ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT CONTROLS THE  
TOWNS, THE NORTHERN COUNTRYSIDE IS STILL INSECURE,  
AND A LARGE NUMBER OF SOMALIS HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN  
ETHIOPIA.

THE UNITED STATES HAS A STRONG AND FRIENDLY  
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOMALIA AND WE  
HAVE BEEN URGING IT TO SEEK A POLITICAL SOLUTION  
THAT WILL ACHIEVE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. PRESIDENT  
SIAD BARRE HAS APPOINTED A CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE  
WHOSE OBJECTIVE IS TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION. ALSO,  
HE HAS INSTRUCTED HIS ARMY TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT  
TOWARDS CIVILIANS, AND HE HAS ANNOUNCED THAT REFUGEES  
WOULD BE WELCOMED BACK TO THEIR HOMES. WE ARE URGING

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THAT THESE INITIATIVES BE PURSUED VIGOROUSLY AND WE ARE URGING FURTHER ACTIONS, SUCH AS THE REINTRODUCTION OF INTERNATIONAL RELIEF WORKERS TO SECURE AREAS OF THE NORTH. PRESIDENT SIAD ASKED THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE THE LEAD IN THE REHABILITATION EFFORT. A TEAM HEADED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY KEN BLEAKLEY RECENTLY VISITED THE NORTH AND THE REFUGEE CAMPS IN ETHIOPIA, AND A UN TEAM JUST TRAVELED TO HARGEISA.

Q. IS U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE AFFECTED BY THE HOLD?

A. NO. CONGRESS DOES NOT REQUIRE NOTIFICATION PRIOR TO OBLIGATION OF MAP FUNDS. WE HAVE A CONTINUING MAP RELATIONSHIP, THE PURPOSE OF WHICH IS TO STRENGTHEN SOMALIA'S SELF-DEFENSE CAPABILITIES.

Q. HOW MUCH AID IS THE U.S. PROVIDING SOMALIA?

A. THIS FISCAL YEAR WE PLAN TO OBLIGATE:  
- \$ 6.5 MILLION IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE  
- \$25 MILLION IN ESF  
- \$ 6 MILLION IN DFA  
- \$ 5 MILLION IN PL-480

\$42.5 MILLION TOTAL SHULTZ  
END OF MESSAGE

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